

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Camp Dawson.

1. **Purpose.** Summary of Camp Dawson background and training capabilities.

2. **Facts.**

a. Camp Dawson is a West Virginia Army National Guard (WVNG) facility in Preston County, West Virginia. Camp Dawson was established on May 7, 1909 when the West Virginia Legislature authorized the purchase of 196.5 acres (0.795 km²) of land on Dunkard Bottom along the Cheat River. The camp was named in honor of William M. O. Dawson, a native of Preston County, who had served as governor of the state from 1905-1908. Troops first trained at Camp Dawson during that summer and continued until the entry of the U.S. into World War I in 1917. The camp was not used again until 1928 when it was reestablished as a training site for the WVNG.

b. Since the original purchase, six additional tracts of land have been acquired bringing the present total acreage to 4,177 1/2 acres. Training opportunities that are unique to Camp Dawson have attracted our sister services for many years. In all types of weather and terrain, many of the various components of Active and Reserve Forces have chosen Camp Dawson for their training site.

c. Camp Dawson has many amenities to include a conference center, fitness center, small arms ranges, dining facility, MWR, lounge, Olympic pool, outdoor recreation, auditorium, barber shop, combat simulators, airfield, ID card center, classrooms, snack bar, Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT), barracks, heli pads, hotel style rooms, post exchange, demolition ranges, computer labs, mess halls, and a fuel farm.

d. Some of the training opportunities include a state of the art Operations Center, our Regional Training Institute (RTI), a multipurpose building, a live fire shoot house, a Modified Record Fire (MRF) Range, Pringle MOUT site, Volkstone MOUT site, Quarry shoot house, MEDEVAC and Air support, Engagement Skills Training (EST), HMMWV Egress Assistance Training (HEAT), Virtual Convoy Operations Training, (VCOT), demolition and grenade ranges, and several other training areas with various terrains.